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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 10 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Panama, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, respectfully requests the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations".

The Mission respectfully suggests that the scale of assessments be considered, along with an in-depth analysis of the scope of United Nations peacekeeping operations, by the Fifth Committee during the main part of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I am pleased to attach hereto an explanatory memorandum concerning this request.

(*Signed*) Ramon A. **Morales Q.**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

The General Assembly's deep and reiterated concern over the peacekeeping scale methodology has to be addressed without further delay in order to conform it to ongoing and future peacekeeping operations.

The Permanent Mission of Panama is in agreement with the delegations that have voiced the need for updating a system that was adopted in 1973 for a particular case and that had been utilized as a long-term mechanism without ever being adapted to the new realities of the world.

The inclusion of an item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations" in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly should be conceived in such form that the membership would be able to engage in an in-depth analysis of the understanding of the concept of peacekeeping operations, both as prescribed by the Charter and in the much more ample scope suggested by some Members.

The Permanent Mission of Panama considers equally important that the membership also discuss reforming the manner in which peacekeeping operations are planned, carried out and paid for. Consideration of this important matter should permit the optimal use of available resources, allow for enhancement of the participation of the principal organs and functional commissions of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations, and provide better security for personnel assigned to those missions.

In conclusion, the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations requests that this item be inscribed in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly and assigned to the Fifth Committee.